

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01917 101631Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1917

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (T H R O U G H O U T)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC
SUBJECT: FORMATION OF JOINT PANEL TO RECOMMEND SOLUTION TO UAE
INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS

REF: ABU DHABI 1705

1. IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A WAY TO COME TO GRIPS OVER INTERNAL ISSUES
WITHIN UAE REPORTED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS AND FOLLOWING A CLOSED
DEBATE WITHIN THE FEDERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DECISION WAS TAKEN
JULY 4 TO FORM A CABINET-FEDERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JOINT COMMITTEE
TO SEEK SOLUTIONS. MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON CABINET SIDE
INCLUDE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH HAMDAN BUN MUHAMMAD,
ECONOMY AND COMMERCE MINISTER SULTAN BIN AHMAD AL MUALLA,
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER MUHAMMAD SAID AL MULLA, PLANNING
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MINISTER SAID GHUBBASH, LABOR MINISTER ABDALLAH MAZRUI,
HEALTH MINISTER KHALFAN AL RUMI, AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR
INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAMOUDA BIN ALI. FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL
SPEAKER TARYAM UMRAN TARYAM IS CO-CHAIRMAN WITH SEVEN
MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY WHO REPRESENT DIFFERENT PARTS OF
FEDERATION. JOINT COMMITTEE MET WITH UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH
ZAYID JULY 5 AND WITH UAE VICE PRESIDENT SHAIKH RASHID ON

JULY 8. JOINT COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH OTHER RULERS AS WELL.

2. UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI TOLD ME JULY 9 THAT JOINT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW ALL OF THE ISSUES THAT HAVE COME UP IN RECENT MONTHS AMONG THE RULERS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE JOINT COMMITTEE MET WITH ZAYID, IT WAS TOLD THAT HE WOULD COOPERATE AND ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL THAT JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD MAKE. SUWAIDI DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT SHAIKH RASHID'S REACTION WAS SINCE THE MEETING HAD OCCURRED LATE PREVIOUS EVENING. HOWEVER, HE

HOPED RASHID WOULD FIND MANDATE OF JOINT COMMITTEE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT IS REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTAINS LOTS OF "NEW FACES." HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OTHER RULERS ALSO TO DISCUSS FEDERAL ISSUES WITH PERSONS OTHER THAN HIMSELF. PERHAPS IT WOULD MAKE THEM BETTER AWARE OF DANGERS OF DISARRAY WITHIN UAE IF THESE CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED BY A WIDER AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP. IN MEANTIME, SUWAIDI HOPED THAT USG AND OTHER FRIENDLY STATES WILL CONTINUE USE EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TO RULERS' ATTENTION IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION ON INTER-EMIRATE ISSUES IN LIGHT OF ADVERSE REGIONAL EVENTS (I.E. AFGHANISTAN AND PDRY) WHICH AFFECT UAE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING.

3. COMMENT: INVOLVEMENT OF FEDERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND OF CABINET COULD BE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT IF JOINT COMMITTEE CAN
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SUCCEED IN NARROWING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZAYID AND RASHID. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BOTH MEN MIGHT ULTIMATELY FIND JOINT COMMITTEE,, REPRESENTING IN EFFECT THE "POPULAR" WILL IN EMIRATES, CONVENIENT DEVICE TO ENABLE THEM TO ACCEPT GRACEFULLY COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR DIFFERENCES. HOWEVER, AS THESE DIFFERENCES ARE ROOTED IN SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRASTING OUTLOOKS AND PHILOSOPHIES OF THESE TWO RULERS CONCERNING DEGREE OF POWER TO BE ACCORDED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN FEDERATION, JOINT COMMITTEE MAY FIND THAT IT CAN DO LITTLE TO BRING ZAYID AND RASHID CLOSER TOGETHER. AT LEAST, BOTH RULERS NOW HAVE REASON (OR EXCUSE) NOT TO TAKE ANY PRECIPITATE ACTIONS THAT WOULD FURTHER EXCITE TENSIONS PENDING COMPLETION BY JOINT COMMITTEE OF ITS CONSULTATIONS AND FORMULATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS IN ITSELF MAY HELP TO DEFUSE POLITICAL SITUATION DURING LONG, HOT TEDIOUS SUMMER MONTHS AHEAD.
DICKMAN.

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